

Salisbury, North Carolina
February 20, 2018

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Al Heggins, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem David Post; Council Members Karen Alexander, William Brian Miller and Tamara Sheffield; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; City Clerk Diane Gilmore, and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT:

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Heggins at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Heggins led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
GIRL SCOUTS HORNETS' NEST COUNCIL
COOKIE WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 2018

FEBRUARY 23–25, 2018

Mayor Heggins invited the Hornets' Nest Girl Scout Troop to come forward to accept their proclamation, and she read and recognized the group for their service to the community.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Heggins welcomed all visitors present. She recognized the Salisbury High School Women's Tennis team for their victory of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Women Tennis Team 2017 State Championship 2A. She recognized tennis coach Mr. Milton Grifton.

Mayor Pro Tem Post indicated the Salisbury Tennis team, or members of the team, have won a State Championship title for the last 12 to 14 years. He commended the girls on their recent win.

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Regular meeting of January 16, 2018, and Special meetings of January 08 and January 30, 2018.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Post made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Alexander seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

RECOGNITION OF SALISBURY POLICE OFFICER

Police Chief Jerry Stokes recognized Master Officer Ann Cooper for her 25 years of service to the Salisbury Police Department and her outstanding connection to the community. He noted Officer Cooper was an instructor for the Salisbury G.R.E.A.T camp programs and has shown great leadership.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to authorize issuing retired Master Police Officer Cooper her sidearm and badge. Councilmember Alexander seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

Chief Jerry Stokes presented Officer Cooper with a plaque from the Salisbury Police Department.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – CHEERWINE FESTIVAL

Parks and Recreation Events Coordinator Vivian Koontz updated Council regarding a request for a temporary road closure for the 2018 Cheerwine Festival to be held Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. She explained the event is a partnership with Cheerwine, City of Salisbury, and Downtown Salisbury, Inc. She provided an overview for the event and

noted it will include multiple vendors, a children's area, and six music groups. She commented with the anticipated crowds and the expansion of the event, safety is the main purpose of the road closure request. She commented the proposed closures allow the event to spread into the North Main and South Main Street areas of the downtown and includes sections of Innes Street.

Engineering Technician Vickie Eddlemen presented Council with ordinance text revisions for the street closure. Ms. Eddlemen clarified the portion of Liberty Street and Council Street will close beginning Friday, May 18, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. and will reopen on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 1:00 a.m. Councilmember Miller clarified North Main Street between Council Street and Innes Street, and South Main Street between Innes Street and Bank Street will close Saturday, May, 19, 2018 at 12:00 a.m. and reopen on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 1:00 a.m. Ms. Eddleman agreed.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if Main Street will remain closed at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday with the reopening of Innes Street at that time. Ms. Koontz noted Main Street will remain closed to allow vendors time to breakdown booths.

Ms. Eddleman indicated the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) agreed to assist with public notification regarding direction for road closures and alternate routes. She commented the notifications would be displayed on the digital overhead messaging board located on Interstate 85. She commented the City will place additional signage throughout the downtown area to aid traffic. She commented City departments will work together to ensure Police and Fire have full road access for emergency services.

Councilmember Miller asked for additional detail regarding the plan for parking. Ms. Koontz commented a parking plan is in discussion. Downtown Salisbury, Inc. Director Larissa Harper commented parking plans have been discussed and will be provided to Council at a later date.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if the number of street closures have any connection to the number of vendors that are participating. Ms. Koontz noted the event will provide local craft vendors, a children's area, and a more space for movement. Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if there is a vendor's fee. Ms. Koontz commented there is a vendor fee. Mayor Pro Tem Post asked how many vendors have shown interest for the 2018 Cheerwine event. Ms. Koontz commented 60 or more vendors are anticipated to participate.

Councilmember Sheffield asked about Cheerwine's involvement in the event. Ms. Koontz commented Cheerwine is a partner and sponsor, and she noted Cheerwine will assist in the marketing, promotions, and merchandise for the event.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to acknowledge the benefits, to provide a 2018 Cheerwine Festival Event that will help visitors discover our beautiful City and for the pleasure of its citizens, and the Salisbury City Council acknowledges its citizens realize the financial benefits of hosting the 2018 Cheerwine Festival and acknowledges that such an event requires approximately twenty-four hours to install signing and traffic control, host the event and remove signs, traffic control and litter. Now therefore be it ordained that the Salisbury City Council pursuant to the authority granted by G.S. 20-169 that they do hereby declare a temporary road

closure during the day and time set below on the described State Highway System route. First road closure at North Main, Liberty, and Council Streets on Friday, May 18, 2018 from 8:00 p.m. through Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 1:00 a.m. the Second road closure at North Main Street between Council and Innes Streets on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 12:00 a.m. through Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 1:00 a.m. and the third road closure at Innes Street between Lee and Church Streets on Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. This Ordinance to become effective when signs are erected giving notice of limits and times of the event, and implementation of adequate traffic control guide through vehicle around the event. Councilmember Alexander seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers, Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE DECLARING A TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FOR A 2018 CHEERWINE FESTIVAL EVENT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 27 at Page No. 15, and is known as Ordinance 2018-10.)

PRESENTATION – WOMEN FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Women for Community Justice Representative Andria Cantrell shared with Council that the Women for Community Justice Group (WCJ) began as a platform for women in the community to meet and share ideas and concerns regarding violence in the United States and the Salisbury community. She commented the first of five Stop the Violence Summits took place on July 20, 2016 after the shooting death of seven year old A'yanna Allen.

Stop the Violence representative Pastor Anthony Smith presented Council with an overview regarding the Stop the Violence Summits. He noted the community groups that participated in meetings, and he noted the WCJ provided facilitators at the Summit. Ms. Cantrell explained ideas generated from the summit are known as the Grass Roots created categories and she reviewed a handout presented to Council.

Dr. Regina Dancy addressed Council regarding two Grass Roots initiatives, one to assist ex-offender's and the other to use art to reach out to a diversified community. She described a program called Operation Clean Slate that assists ex-offenders reentering into society. She noted the community has implemented art programs that would provide students an outlet when they are faced with difficult challenges. The WCJ thanked the City Council for their time and hearing the presentation.

Mayor Heggins thanked WCJ for accepting her invitation and thanked the group for presenting the information to Council.

PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY ACTION TEAMS

Reverend Rod Kerr commented he works on the Work Force Development Committee for

the Community Action Team. He commented the Work Force Development Committee goals are to increase employment opportunity and awareness by social media outlets and churches. He expressed the committee will continue to hold job fairs in the spring and fall. He commented the Community Action Teams are looking for people interested in helping. Mr. Glennwood Oats, Assistant Pastor of Cornerstone Church, addressed Council regarding future job fair events. He noted the group has helped update the communities' resource guide known as the United Way 2-1-1, and works with the Project Safe coordinator to improve participation with the Second Chance Program.

Ms. Courtney Davis and Reverend Olen Bruner addressed Council regarding the Opportunities for Children Committee. She noted the team has a goal to grow existing groups of the community and she indicated the committee works with fifteen organizations. She noted the Parks and Recreation department has created a bus pass that provides Miller Teen Center members free transportation. Reverend Bruner commented the action team will work to update the United Way 2-1-1 database, and he noted the bus pass will help measure how many citizens the program will reach.

Ms. Liliana Spears noted the Public Relations Committee would like to have more community participants. Ms. Dee Ellison explained the team has a goal to build trust throughout the community. She commented the communications team has pursued work with the United Way 2-1-1 online database to raise public awareness in North Carolina.

Public Safety Committee member Mr. John Shaver commented the group's goals include an increase in police officers and community policing. He commented the group has set a goal to reduce gun violence by 5% every year. He indicated the public safety team has found its goals reflect the Salisbury Police Department's goals. He commented the team will focus on the Code Enforcement area, and he noted the department works closely with the Police Department. Human Relations Manager Anne Little stated the group has access to data and resources, and she would like the City to work closely with Stop the Violence group.

Mayor Heggins recognized those in attendance who serve on more than one Community Action Team. Mayor Heggins suggested community members who work on Community Action Teams and the Women for Community Justice could meet and merge their resources together to reduce overlap. Mayor Heggins commended the groups for their work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Heggins opened the floor to receive public comments.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright addressed Council regarding the length of Council meetings. She asked Council to consider minimizing the duration of Council's meeting.

Mr. William Hustead expressed concerns regarding his business, Code Enforcement, and signs he has available for purchase at his business.

Mr. Ryan Stowe thanked Council for their leadership. He commented he owns the Polaris Law Firm in Salisbury and indicated he had concerns regarding summer employment opportunities available for children.

Mayor Pro Tem Post stated he has received questions regarding internships. He asked if the Council could research opportunities. City Manager Mr. Lane Bailey indicated the Human Resource Department offers the Salisbury Youth Employee Program. Councilmember Alexander noted the City had ten students who participated in last summer's eight week program.

Ms. Carolyn Logan shared concerns regarding the City's water. She asked Council for clarification regarding housing grant money.

Mr. Michael Kirksey expressed his opposition regarding street parking and noise in the 400 block of South West Street, and he noted concerns with the City's fee schedule

Ms. Latasha Wilks shared a concern with her Boards and Commissions application. She asked Council to consider communicating with service providers to offer security packages to local business owners in the area near Cinemark Tinseltown USA Movie Theater.

Mayor Heggins asked Ms. Wilks to clarify what she meant by businesses packages. Ms. Wilks stated she would like Council to communicate with business providers to offer security packages to local businesses.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Heggins closed the public comment session.

RECESS

Mayor Heggins made a **motion** to take a ten minute recess and all Councilmembers in attendance agreed unanimously to recess.

The meeting reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Planning Director Janet Gapen addressed Council regarding a public hearing on the use of funds the City receives from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She commented the City participates in a three county consortium to receive HOME funds.

Ms. Gapen presented Council with an estimated budget based on last year's funding. She noted the estimated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are \$271,203, HOME funds \$108,834, and the estimated Income is \$30,000. She stated the Income funds are recycled back into the program when loans are repaid or when homes are bought and sold. She concluded

total estimated funding is \$410,037 for fiscal year 2018-2019. She stated funds help provide down payment assistance, owner occupied rehabilitation, and funding for public service agencies for eligible citizens. Ms. Gapen noted the second group of funding is dispersed into five neighborhoods as a part of a five year consolidated plan. She commented the funding provides public infrastructure improvements that could include sidewalks and park improvements.

Ms. Gapen indicated an informational session was held at the West End Community Center where the community expressed a desire for neighborhood community appearance funds.

Mayor Heggins convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding the CDBG Grant Funding.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked what the funding was last year. Ms. Gapen indicated the amounts presented were last year's figures. She noted the department has not yet been notified of this year's funding totals.

Ms. Whitney Peckman asked how the Planning Department determined the breakdown of funding and how it is determined who receives those funds. She expressed a concern regarding funds spent for aesthetics verses long term improvements.

Councilmember Miller asked Ms. Peckman if she was confusing the Blockwork Program with the Community Development Block Grant funding. Ms. Peckman stated that she could be confused. Councilmember Miller stated professionals are hired to complete all the CDBG work.

Mayor Heggins asked Ms. Peckman if her concerns regarded how the funds are distributed and who keeps track of the work that is performed. Ms. Gapen stated the City's Planning department is not allowed to perform cosmetic work and partners with the Salisbury Community Development for the repairs.

Councilmember Alexander commented funds that help with homeownership are from the North Carolina Financing Agency or the United Way's programs. She commented the Community Development Corporation (CDC) funding requirements are set forth by HUD, and she commented construction is then performed by HUD.

Ms. Kia Rustin addressed Council regarding the first time home buyer's program and commented last year only seven to eight citizens received benefits from the program. She asked Council how the program could be marketed in a way so more citizens know it is available.

Councilmember Alexander commented citizens are required to attend classes and meet certain requirements in order to receive benefits from the first time home buyer's program.

Councilmember Miller asked Ms. Gapen if there has been a time that all of the funds had not been used. Ms. Gapen stated all of the funding is used, and she noted the HUD programs are based on time limits, and on May 2 of every year HUD reviews the percentage of funds utilized.

Ms. Rustin stated she wanted to encourage more home buying education and asked if the Community Development Corporation (CDC) could help promote the awareness.

Ms. Krista Woolley thanked the CDC and the City for providing opportunities to citizens in need. She noted she represents the Community Health Care Clinic and 25% of Salisbury and Rowan County citizens do not have access to health care and are self-employed. She commented the Community Care Clinic has 1,400 patients and noted many of them have high medication cost.

Mr. Michael Kirksey expressed concerns regarding the CDC programs and the funds given to the West End area. He noted sidewalk needs and housing in the West End community.

Ms. Ollie Mae Carroll commented she agreed with Mr. Kirksey's concerns regarding sidewalks, and she commented on the traffic congestion on Old Plank Road and Old Wilkesboro Road. She expressed concerns regarding the lack of funding in those areas.

Ms. Renee Bradshaw, executive director of Family Crisis Council, thanked Council for allowing her to speak and described the programs the Crisis Council offers.

Ms. Sheri Smith, director of client services at Rowan Helping Ministries, commented the funding received last year helped fund the full-time case management staff. She noted the Rowan Helping Ministries served over 700 men, women, and children and provided 27,859 nights of service. She thank Council for the funds received last year.

Ms. Dee Ellison asked Council about the targeted areas that were presented, and she asked for clarification to help her understand how those areas are chosen.

Mayor Heggins commented hearing concerns expressed during the public hearing, and she did not want a perception to be formed that the funding is a competition. She noted she would like to resolve some of the beliefs and suggestions shared.

City Manager Lane Bailey addressed the concern regarding sidewalks on Old Plank Road and noted the construction will be completed this spring. He commented Old Wilkesboro Road sidewalks are connected to the Greenway trail, and he noted Councilmember Alexander had advocated for funding with the Carolina Thread Trail.

Councilmember Alexander asked for clarification regarding percentage of funds being used elsewhere. Councilmember Alexander indicated 15% of the money used for public services is mandated by the federal government. Mayor Heggins asked for a breakdown of the dispersed funding. Ms. Gapen stated the budget breakdown is on the City's webpage under Planning and Community Development. Councilmember Miller asked Ms. Gapen if funding detail could be provided at the next Council meeting, before Council moves to take a vote. Ms. Gapen commented the information could be provided along with a consolidated plan.

There being no one else to speak, Mayor Heggins closed the public hearing.

Ms. Gapen reviewed the current year's budget. She commented \$117,000 is allocated for owner occupied rehabilitation, \$40,000 for West End sidewalk project, \$43,500 to Public Services Agencies with a 15% limit, \$59,000 to program administration, and \$500 to fair housing activities. She commented the Planning Department budgeted \$6,000 for fair housing testing, and she indicated \$40,994.80 is paid for debt service for the Park Avenue Community Center.

Councilmember Miller asked how long the designated neighborhoods have received funding. Ms. Gapen commented the neighborhoods have been in place since 2005 and are evaluated and discussed by Council every year.

Councilmember Sheffield commented on a meeting in the West End that included five attendees. Ms. Gapen noted community meetings were held at Park Avenue and the West End Area and were advertised City wide through the Communications Department.

Councilmember Sheffield encouraged citizens to engage in community meetings. She addressed a public comment made regarding how the budget it allocated and asked Ms. Gapen if she could provide that information at the next Council meeting. Councilmember Sheffield commented the funds have guidelines created by the federal government.

LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP Z-04-2018 – 400 BLOCK OF BRINGLE FERRY ROAD AND EAST LAFAYETTE STREET

Development and Code Services Manager Preston Mitchell commented Mayor Pro Tem Post, Councilmember Miller, and he met with the applicant, Mr. Flores, and concluded they would like more discussion with Mr. Flores to review alternate zoning options. He noted Bringle Ferry Road and East Lafayette Street residents expressed an interest in rezoning. He stated he will return to Council with additional information once staff has explored more options.

Mayor Heggins thanked Mr. Mitchell, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmember Miller, for working with Mr. Flores.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REVIEW – ELECTION PROCESS

Mayor Heggins stated at Council's January 16, 2018 meeting a motion was made to review the City's election process. Mayor Pro Tem Post commented the second member of the committee had not been determined.

Councilmember Miller nominated Councilmember Tamara Sheffield to serve on the Council Committee to review the Election Process.

Thereupon Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to nominate Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmember Tamara Sheffield to serve on the Council Committee to review the City's Election Process. Councilmember Alexander seconded. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE. (5-0)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Community Appearance Commission

Upon a motion by Councilmember Sheffield, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Community Appearance Commission for a term to begin April 1, 2018:

Ms. Levonia Corry

Term Expires 3/31/21

Housing Advocacy Commission

Councilmember Miller asked for clarification regarding Ms. Greta Conner's re-appointment and suggested Council continue the same process when extending terms with the understanding Council has made an exception.

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Post to re-nominate Ms. Greta Conner to serve as the Neighborhood seat on the Housing Advocacy Commission by extending the term limit. Seconded by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Housing Advocacy Commission for a third term to begin April 1, 2018.

Ms. Greta Conner

Term Expires 3/31/21

Tree Advisory Board

Councilmember Sheffield noted the Tree Board has four vacancies and stated the board would return to Council with recommendations regarding appointments after the board meets on Wednesday.

Planning Board

Mayor Pro Tem Post commented the Planning Board will continue to review the vacant Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) seats. Councilmember Miller asked if the Planning Board had two vacant seats. Mayor Pro Tem Post agreed that two seats are vacant, and he nominated Mr. John Struzick and Ms. Patricia Ricks. Mayor Heggins noted she would like to nominate Ms. Velveeta Reid-Hairston and Ms. Patricia Ricks.

Mayor Heggins stated Mr. Struzick had indicated on his application his first preference was to serve on the Human Relations Council. Mayor Heggins asked City Clerk Diane Gilmore if a second application was submitted. Ms. Gilmore indicated that Mr. Struzick withdrew his first application. Councilmember Sheffield asked if the ETJ needed to be discussed further before

appointments could be made. Councilmember Miller noted the ETJ vacancies do not impact the recommendations.

Mayor Pro Tem Post made a motion to appoint Ms. Patricia Ricks to serve on the Planning Board, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Planning Board for a term to begin April 1, 2018.

Ms. Patricia Ricks

Term Expires 3/31/21

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Post to appoint Mr. John Struzick to serve on the Planning Board and seconded by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE and Mayor Heggins voted NAY and motion passed 4-1, the following appointment was made to the Planning Board for a term to begin April 1, 2018.

Mr. John Struzick

Term Expires 3/31/21

Mayor Heggins asked about the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Councilmember Alexander noted the board will have two resignations and she noted recommendations had not been determined.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

(a) Second Quarter Financial Update

City Manager Lane Bailey asked Financial Services Director Shannon Moore to present the second quarter financial update.

Ms. Moore explained a three year historical trend had been added to the update. She stated this addition gives a breakdown of the current year's budget into the appropriate quarters based on how both revenues are received and how funds are expended.

Ms. Moore noted revenue in the General Fund in the last fiscal year had been received related to the refinancing of the Fibrant debt. She indicated there was a small piece of debt that was earmarked for General Fund building and facilities repairs. She explained that the budget to actual in the current year when using the three historical trends is \$1.2 million less than in the previous year. She specified the General Fund expenses are up from last year and costs can typically increase each year. She stated the first two quarters are trending approximately \$1.4 million less than in the past for expenditures.

Ms. Moore noted the current year property taxes have increased approximately \$1.1 million from the previous year. She stated the Municipal Service District (MSD) Tax revenue is included in fiscal year 2018. She noted the fiscal year 2018 budget includes an additional \$1,044,000 in property taxes related to a tax increase.

Ms. Moore noted during the second quarter sales tax revenue has increased \$100,000 from fiscal year 2017.

Ms. Moore noted increases in the General Fund expenses are due to personnel costs and the contract with Rowan County Sheriff's Department. She stated the transportation areas have some large one-time special projects.

Ms. Moore noted there was not a rate increase in the stormwater fund. She stated stormwater expenses are down and can change each year. She noted the stormwater fund currently has several onetime projects.

Ms. Moore noted there is a decrease in revenue in the Water and Sewer Fund in fiscal year 2018. She reminded Council of the loss of the City of Kannapolis water contract. She noted expenses in the previous year variance and current budget to actual are up from last fiscal year. She shared that the majority of expenses in the fiscal year 2018 budget are projects from last fiscal year.

Ms. Moore noted the Transit fund is showing a decrease in revenue of \$84,000. She shared the Finance Department had previously worked with Transit Director Rodney Harrison to apply for federal reimbursements. She stated the Transit expenses are up from last fiscal year.

Ms. Moore noted an increase in revenue in the Fibrant Fund. She shared there were debt costs that were reduced regarding the refinancing from last fiscal year to this fiscal year. She noted the savings in the current year was is approximately \$420,000.

Mayor Heggins asked about the loss of the contract with the City of Kannapolis. City Manager Lane Bailey stated the contract had expired and had been created during a water shortage. He stated the City of Salisbury is currently having a discussion with the City of Kannapolis regarding another type of an agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked for clarification regarding no debt service in the Fibrant Fund during the second quarter. Ms. Moore confirmed there was no debt service in the Fibrant Fund in the second quarter. Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if the debt service in the Fibrant Fund is on an accrual or cash basis. Ms. Moore indicated it is on a cash basis. She stated the large Fibrant debt service payment happens in the third quarter. Mayor Pro Tem Post asked for clarification regarding the \$273 million debt service in the first quarter. Ms. Moore stated the \$273 million was interest. Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if the General Fund covered the principal payment. Ms. Moore stated the general fund is a higher than the principal payment.

(b) Update – Fibrant.

City Manager Lane Bailey asked Interim Broadband Director Evans Ballard to present an update on Fibrant. Mr. Bailey stated the negotiation process with Hotwire Communications was going well. He stated the City Attorney had worked with the School of Government and the referendum requirements had been met. He stated if the referendum passes the City could avoid a

tax increase in the next fiscal year, but if the referendum fails there would most likely be a tax increase.

Mayor Heggins shared that information had been previously discussed regarding the need of low income children to have free access to Wi-Fi. Mr. Bailey stated costs were currently being reviewed. Mayor Heggins asked if information regarding Wi-Fi would be included in the update. Mr. Ballard noted no updates regarding the wireless products were available at this time. He stated there had been a meeting held previously with two staff members from Centralina Council of Government (CCOG) regarding the wireless product. He stated there was no federal funding available, but noted foundation funding could be another option. Mayor Heggins asked if Hotwire would be amenable. Mr. Bailey stated Hotwire Communications could be another option to provide services. He stated funds would be available for families who have children currently in school on reduced and free lunch. He stated these funds would allow them to pay a lower rate for services. He shared the provider receives funds from this fund to offset their cost for providing service.

Mr. Ballard shared information that marketing efforts are being provided by social media. He stated the Girls Who Code Program is currently in its second semester. He shared a Hack-a-thon will take place in April, 2018. He noted direct mail is being used for those neighborhoods with no soliciting, and he indicated staff is working with the Communications Department regarding advertisement in the Salisbury Post.

Mr. Ballard stated business sales has been plateaued over the last two and half years. He expressed concern regarding the sales environment. He stated new residential sales is also plateaued.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked City Manager Lane Bailey and City Attorney Rivers Lawther for providing the correct language to proceed with the referendum. Councilmember Miller shared his appreciation for the great customer service he received in the past. Councilmember Sheffield agreed Fibrant provides a good quality of service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Miller Recreation Teen Center Grand Opening.

Director of Communications Linda McElroy announced the Parks and Recreation will host the Miller Recreation Teen Center Grand-Opening Saturday, March 3, 2018 from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Miller Recreation Teen Center. There will be an opportunity to view improvements to the facility. The Miller Recreation Teen Center is free and open to youth grades 6-12. For more information please call 704-216-PLAY.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

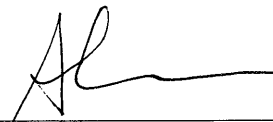
Councilmember Miller referred to Councilmembers Sheffield's suggestion at a previous Council meeting regarding Council meeting start times, and he requested a discussion be added to the next Council meetings agenda. He asked Council to consider a future courtesy hearing to receive public input regarding Council meetings to begin at 6:00 p.m. with an end time of 9:00 p.m. He commented if a meeting last beyond 9:00 p.m. a vote would be needed to extend the meeting time. He also asked Council to consider having closed sessions prior to Council meetings.

City Manager Lane Bailey suggested Council meetings with a closed session could begin at 5:00 p.m. and recess until 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Alexander asked if public comments could take place at the beginning of Council's meeting at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Post suggested the goal setting Retreat could be a place that Council discussed Council meeting start and end times. Councilmember Miller agreed.

Mayor Pro Tem Post commented regarding the Salisbury Youth Council and engaging youth in the government.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Post seconded by Councilmember Alexander. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Al Heggins, Mayor



Diane Gilmore, City Clerk